

Wall finishing: A Case Study of Warri Metropolitan Area.

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Abstract

This paper discusses a new trend of wall finishing that has become prevalent in the recent times in Warri Metropolitan Area. One may not be able to say categorically if this new style of wall finishing existed in the time past. However, it is the newest of wall finishing that almost everybody is sorting after these days in this country-Nigeria, and especially in Warri Metropolitan Area of Delta State. This paper is a modest attempt that examined the indices that necessitated the crave for this contemporary style of wall-finishing. Therefore, in finding answers to the reason(s) why this strong desire for the usage of tiles for wall finishing, a questionnaire was designed, distributed to respondents, collected and responses of respondents were analyzed and respondents' opinions were used as the bases for the conclusion of the work and recommendations were made on that also.

Introduction

Walls are part of buildings forming the uprightness upon which the roof stands. Walls are seen within the outside and inside of a building. These walls are beautified as to promote the aesthetic value of the building. Some of the materials and styles used for wall finishing include tiles, paints, stones and wall papers. Among the wall finishing styles enumerated, tiles are becoming the most predominant. Tiles are ceramic products and they encompass diverse products, from wall tiles to floor tiles and to the ones usually used on countertops, Andrew (2004). Tiles are made from a number of earthy materials, such as clays, oxides, and quartz. The tiles have a mixture sealed of either non-porous surface or water-absorbing (porous) surface. These mixtures enable the tiles to be suitable for high firing temperature that ranges from 1000 to 1250°C. Tiles are coated with glass forming minerals and ceramic stains. Usually, types of the glass forming minerals (glazes) are matte, semi-gloss or high glosses. The high gloss can be more slippery and as such scratches or dotting becomes necessary. But unglazed ceramic tiles are very hard and dense and are in various surface treatments and textures. In spite of these differences, tiles are basically installed in the same manner.

Types and Characteristics of Tiles

Ceramic tiles: are mixture of clay and quartz, ferrous sand, and other materials alongside water. The earthy materials are mined from the earth, shaped coloured and then fired in kilns. They can be coloured with stains and the surfaces can be glazed either in a high gloss or matt glazes for finishing. This has created room for liberty and exploitation to the ceramist thereby giving room to varieties of types of tiles, as noted by a body known as Design2ch3/Good Industrial practice, Rectified Ceramic Tiles-Building and Construction Authority, in 2010.

The same authority also discussed Homogeneous tiles in (2010) as composition from fine porcelain clay and it fires at a much higher temperature than normal ceramic tiles. There is also another type of tiles known as unglazed and they are also referred to as bisque fired tiles. The names connote that the tiles are not coated with glazes, although depending on the intended purpose. Yet, another one called the glazed coating which comprises of liquid coloured glass is applied and baked to the surface of the bisque under very high temperatures. The liquid glass coating can be fashioned with textures and design.

Paints

Paints are derived from pigments usually suspended in linseed oil where the linseed oil serves as the binder for the pigments. Also drier is used to control the drying time. While linseed oil that contains thinner helps to control the flowing qualities of the paint. As the thinner evaporates, the mixture of pigments and oil gradually dries to an elastic skin as the oil absorbs oxygen from the air. The therapeutic action bonds a tough paint film to an applied surface. Del Monte and Sabbioni (1987), opine that whenever walls are painted, their state of preservation, from dangers menacing them and the possibilities of conserving them need keen attention, especially as to protect the plaster layers. In buttressing the above statement, Andreas and Konrad (1999), state that to preserve wall paintings, it is crucial to understand the genesis and behaviour of salt concentrations, chemical and physical processes damaging the paintings, and the conditions under which decay occurs. However, Faller (1987) notes that the principal salts known to occur in walls are carbonates, sulfates, chlorides, nitrates, and oxalates of sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium and ammonia.

Types of Paints

There are different types of paint used by people and industries. The most important among them are the Latex and Alkyd. According to Ross and Kinhead, (1999:40) Latex paints contain either acrylic or vinyl resins. It is

the most expensive, but highly durable and its finishing make it the best paint for decorative finishing. They also noted that Alkyd paints are those paints which contain a number of artificial resins. They have replaced the linseed oil formerly used as a binder for oil-based paints for interiors. Sometimes, special additives are added to tailor paints to specific surface. However, today, there are great improvements on the production of new breed of paints. These paints are made from components that help them to dry so fast and leaving behind smooth and aesthetic appealing surfaces with high sense of durability. In every part of the world there are researches going on in order to improve human standard of living and these include researches on paints. In Nigeria today, many standard paints have been discovered through researches. Some amongst a lot are Santex and Dulux.

In spite, of all these improvements in regards to paint production, the rate of today's yearning for use of tiles for wall finishing in Uvwie Local Government Area, Okuo-Okoko and Osubi that are in Okpe Local Government Area. Osubi town has an air-port of high standard although, not the type that can be rated with an International Air-port. The existence of this air-port has aided the movement of young civilized and wealthy people to these areas. Funny enough, the towns are closed to one another hence; this new style of wall finishing became so noticeable in the three towns.

Methodology

The method for this research was random sampling: In each of the towns, fifteen landlords, fifteen landladies, and tenants including fifteen men and fifteen women were asked to dip pick already folded papers written on 'Yes' or 'No' in a basket. Those who picked 'Yes' were given the questionnaires to respond to. The questionnaires were collected for analysis and conclusions were made based on the analyzed data. How the questionnaires were distributed: a total of one hundred and eighty questionnaires, containing ten (10) questions each were distributed to sixty (60) respondents in each of the towns to elicit responses. The respondents includes: Landlords, Landladies and Tenants: males and females in Uvwie, Okuo-Okoko and Osubi towns in Warri Metropolitan areas where these modern edifices and new style of using tiles for wall finishing are commonly found. The keys that were used for the analysis were: Yes, No, Undecided as it is applied below:

QUESTIONNAIRES: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Question 1: Do you like to use tiles in the place of paint for the walls of your building?

S/N	Towns	No of Ques. Distributed	No of Ques. Retrieved	No of Yes	No. of No	No of Undecided	No of Ques. Lost
a)	Uvwie	60	52	28	15	9	8
b)	Osubi	60	56	33	10	13	4
c)	Okuo-Okoko	60	54	29	14	11	6
Total		180	162	90	39	33	18

To calculate each percentages

No of Yes

$$\frac{90}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{4,500}{81} = 55\% = \text{YES}$$

No of No

$$\frac{39}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{1,950}{81} = 24\% = \text{NO}$$

No of Undecided =

$$\frac{33}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{1,650}{81} = 20\% = \text{UNDECIDED}$$

$$\text{No of Lost} = \text{Lost } 18 = \frac{18}{180} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{90}{9} = 10\%$$

The total numbers of questionnaires given out were one hundred and eighty (180). Eighteen (18) of them were not returned at the time of collection. For question 1, ninety (90) respondents ticked "Yes", thirty-nine (39) ticked "No" and thirty-three (33) ticked Undecided. The number of those that ticked "Yes" were higher than those who ticked for "No" and "Undecided". This therefore shows that the use of tiles for walls is quite appreciated and it is going to be more appreciated by majority of the people in the near future.

Question 2: Have you ever heard people say that they prefer the use of tiles for walls of buildings than paints?

S/N	Towns	No of Ques. Distributed	No of Ques. Retrieved	No of Yes	No. of No	No of Undecided	No of Ques. Lost
a)	Uvwie	60	52	30	08	06	08
b)	Osubi	60	56	35	15	06	04
c)	Okuo-okoko	60	54	32	14	05	06
Total		180	162	97	37	29	18

$$\text{Yes } \frac{97}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{4,850}{81} = 59.87 = 60\%$$

$$\text{No } \frac{37}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{1,850}{81} = 22.83 = 23\%$$

$$\text{Undecided} = \frac{20}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{1,000}{81} = 12.34 = 12\%$$

Total = 100%

$$\text{No of Lost} = \text{Lost } 18 = \frac{18}{180} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{90}{9} = 10\%$$

Percentage of total lost Questionnaire is = 10% of the total of 180 Questionnaires

The total numbers of questionnaires given out were one hundred and eighty (180). Eighteen (18) of them were not returned at the time of collection. For question 2, ninety-seven (97) respondents ticked "Yes", thirty-seven (37) ticked "No" and twenty-nine (29) ticked Undecided. The number of respondents that ticked "Yes" are higher than those who tick "No" and "Undecided". This therefore shows that the use of tiles for walls is quite new to respondents. As such awareness and sensitivity needed to be created concerning the use and value of tiles. Since, this would provide opportunity for people to make choices between the variables (paints, stones, wall for wall papers, and tiles) for wall finishing.

Question 3: Does the use of tiles enhance the aesthetical values of the walls of a house than paint?

S/N	Towns	No of Ques. Distributed	No of Ques. Retrieved	No of Yes	No. of No	No of Undecided	No of Ques. Lost
a)	Uvwie	60	52	29	16	08	08
b)	Osubi	60	56	31	14	11	04
c)	Okuo-Okoko	60	54	33	12	09	06
Total		180	162	93	42	28	18

$$\text{YES } \frac{93}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{93 \times 50}{81} = \frac{4,650}{81} = 57\%$$

$$\text{NO } \frac{42}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{42 \times 50}{81} = \frac{2,100}{81} = 26\%$$

$$\text{UN } \frac{28}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{28 \times 50}{81} = \frac{1,400}{81} = 17\%$$

$$\text{Lost } 18 = \frac{18}{180} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{90}{9} = 10\%$$

The total numbers of questionnaires given out were one hundred and eighty (180). Eighteen (18) of them were not returned at the time of collection. For question 1, ninety-three (93) respondents ticked "Yes", forty-two (42) ticked "No" and twenty-eight (28) ticked Undecided. The number of those that ticked "Yes" are higher than those who ticked "No" and "Undecided". This therefore shows that the use of tiles for walls has appreciable aesthetical value when compared to paints.

Question 4: Is the use of tiles more economical than paints in terms of maintenance?

N/S	Towns	No of Ques. Distributed	No of Ques. Retrieved	No of Yes	No. of No	No of Undecided	No of Ques. Lost
a)	Uvwie	60	52	36	11	05	08
b)	Osubi	60	56	38	10	08	04
c)	Okuo-Okoko	60	54	33	14	07	06
Total		180	162	107	35	20	18

$$\text{YES } \frac{107}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{107 \times 50}{81} = \frac{5,350}{81} = 66\%$$

$$\text{NO } \frac{35}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{35 \times 50}{81} = \frac{1,750}{81} = 22\%$$

$$\text{UN } \frac{20}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{20 \times 50}{81} = \frac{1,000}{81} = 12\%$$

Total = 100%

$$\text{Lost } 18 = \frac{18}{180} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{90}{9} = 10\%$$

Total = 100%

The total numbers of questionnaires given out were one hundred and eighty (180). Eighteen (18) of them were not returned at the time of collection. For question 4, one hundred and seven (107) respondents ticked “Yes”, thirty-five (35) ticked “No” and twenty (20) ticked undecided. The number of respondents that ticked “Yes” are higher than those who ticked “No” and “Undecided”. This therefore shows that the use of tiles for walls has economic value than paint for them.

Question 5: Do tiles regulate and maintain the atmospheric condition of a house better than paints?

S/N	Towns	No of Ques. Distributed	No of Ques. Retrieved	No of Yes	No. of No	No of Undecided	No of Ques. Lost
a)	Uvwie	60	52	27	10	15	08
b)	Osubi	60	56	28	12	16	04
c)	Okuo-Okoko	60	54	24	13	17	06
Total		180	162	79	35	48	18

$$\text{YES } \frac{79}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{79 \times 50}{81} = \frac{3,950}{81} = 49\%$$

$$\text{NO } \frac{35}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{35 \times 50}{81} = \frac{1,750}{81} = 21\%$$

$$\text{UND } \frac{48}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{48 \times 50}{81} = \frac{2,400}{81} = 30$$

Total = 100%

$$\text{Lost } 18 = \frac{18}{180} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{90}{9} = 10\%$$

Also, the total numbers of questionnaires given out were one hundred and eighty (180). Eighteen (18) of them were not returned at the time of collection. For question 5, seventy-nine (79) respondents ticked “Yes”, thirty-five (35) ticked “No” and forty-eight (48) ticked undecided. The number of respondents that ticked “Yes” are quite higher than those who ticked “No” and “Undecided”. This therefore, shows that the use of tiles for walls can maintains and regulates the atmospheric condition of houses better than paints.

Question 6: Do tiles lose color easily as paints will do?

S/N	Towns	No of Ques. Distributed	No of Ques. Retrieved	No of Yes	No. of No	No of Undecided	No of Ques. Lost
a)	Uvwie	60	52	15	28	09	08
b)	Osubi	60	56	18	26	12	04
c)	Okuo-Okoko	60	54	16	29	09	06
Total		180	162	49	83	30	18

$$\text{YES } \frac{49}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{49 \times 50}{81} = \frac{2,450}{81} = 30\%$$

$$\text{NO } \frac{83}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{83 \times 50}{81} = \frac{4,150}{81} = 51\%$$

$$\text{UND } \frac{30}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{30 \times 50}{81} = \frac{1,500}{81} = 19\%$$

Total = 100%

$$\text{Lost } 18 = \frac{18}{180} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{90}{9} = 10\%$$

For question 6, the total numbers of questionnaires given out were one hundred and eighty (180). Eighteen (18) of them were not returned at the time of collection. However, forty-nine (49) respondents ticked “Yes”, eighty-three (83) ticked “No” and thirty (30) ticked undecided. The number of respondents that ticked “No” are higher than those who ticked “Yes” and “Undecided”. This therefore shows that the tiles do not easily lose colour value like paints will do.

Question 7: Can different tones of colours be achieved with the use of tiles as it is with paints?

S/N	Towns	No of Ques. Distributed	No of Ques. Retrieved	No of Yes	No. of No	No of Undecided	No of Ques. Lost
a)	Uvwie	60	52	25	21	06	08
b)	Osubi	60	56	29	19	08	04
c)	Okuo-Okoko	60	54	22	20	12	06
Total		180	162	76	60	18	18

$$\text{YES } \frac{76}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{76 \times 50}{81} = \frac{3,800}{81} = 46.91 = 47\%$$

$$\text{NO } \frac{60}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{60 \times 50}{81} = \frac{3,000}{81} = 37.04 = 37\%$$

$$\text{UND } \frac{26}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{26 \times 50}{81} = \frac{1,300}{81} = 16.05 = 16\%$$

Total = 100%

$$\text{Lost } 18 = \frac{18}{180} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{90}{9} = 10\%$$

The total numbers of questionnaires given out were one hundred and eighty (180). Eighteen (18) of them were not returned at the time of collection. For question 7, seven-six (76) respondents ticked “Yes”, sixty (60) ticked “No” and eighteen (18) ticked undecided. The number of respondents that ticked “Yes” were higher than those who ticked “No” and “Undecided”. This therefore shows that the use of different colours of tiles can be used to achieve different tones of colours.

Question 8: Are tiles cheaper to afford when compared to paints?

S/N	Towns	No of Ques. Distributed	No of Ques. Retrieved	No of Yes	No. of No	No of Undecided	No of Ques. Lost
a)	Uvwie	60	52	15	25	12	08
b)	Osubi	60	56	20	26	10	04
c)	Okuo-Okoko	60	54	15	27	12	06
Total		180	162	50	78	34	18

$$***YES \quad \frac{50}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{48 \times 50}{81} = \frac{2,400}{81} = 30.86 = 31\%$$

$$***NO \quad \frac{78}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{75 \times 50}{81} = \frac{3,750}{81} = 48.15 = 48\%$$

$$UND \quad \frac{34}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{34 \times 50}{81} = \frac{1,700}{81} = 20.99 = 21\%$$

Total = 100%

$$Lost \ 18 = \frac{18}{180} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{90}{9} = 10\%$$

The total numbers of questionnaires given out were one hundred and eighty (180). Eighteen (18) of them were not returned at the time of collection. For question 8, forty – eight (48) respondents ticked “Yes”, seventy-five (75) ticked “No” and thirty-four (34) ticked undecided. The number of respondents that ticked “No” are higher than those who ticked “Yes” and “Undecided”. This therefore shows that the use of tiles for walls is quite new to respondents. The responses show that prices of tiles are cheaper than paints.

Question 9: Would you want to use tiles for the finishing of your house instead of paints?

S/N	Towns	No of Ques. Distributed	No of Ques. Retrieved	No of Yes	No. of No	No of Undecided	No of Ques. Lost
a)	Uvwie	60	52	30	15	07	08
b)	Osubi	60	56	32	14	10	04
c)	Okuo-Okoko	60	54	33	13	08	06
Total		180	162	95	42	25	18

$$\frac{95}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{95 \times 50}{81} = \frac{4,750}{81} = 58.64 = 59\%$$

$$\frac{42}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{42 \times 50}{81} = \frac{2,100}{81} = 25.93 = 26\%$$

$$\frac{25}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{25 \times 50}{81} = \frac{1,250}{81} = 15.43 = 15\%$$

Total = 100%

$$Lost \ 18 = \frac{18}{180} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{90}{9} = 10\%$$

The total numbers of questionnaires given out were one hundred and eighty (180). Eighteen (18) of them were not returned at the time of collection. For question 9, ninety-five (95) respondents ticked “Yes”, forty-two (42) ticked “No” and twenty-five (25) ticked undecided. The number of respondents that ticked “Yes” are higher than those who ticked “No” and “Undecided”. This therefore shows that a higher number of respondents preferred to use tiles for the finishing of houses.

Question 10: Is it only the rich that use tiles for the finishing of the walls of their buildings?

S/N	Towns	No of Ques. Distributed	No of Ques. Retrieved	No of Yes	No. of No	No of Undecided	No of Ques. Lost
a)	Uvwie	60	52	34	15	03	08
b)	Osubi	60	56	31	18	07	04
c)	Okuo-Okoko	60	54	28	17	09	06
Total		180	162	93	50	19	18

$$\text{YES } \frac{93}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{93 \times 100}{162} = \frac{9300}{162} = 57.40 = 57\%$$

$$\text{NO } \frac{50}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{50 \times 100}{162} = \frac{5000}{162} = 30.86 = 31\%$$

$$\text{UND } \frac{19}{162} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{19 \times 100}{162} = \frac{1900}{162} = 11.72 = 12\%$$

Total = 100%

$$\text{Lost } 18 = \frac{18}{180} \times \frac{100}{1} = \frac{1800}{180} = 10\%$$

For question 10, the total numbers of questionnaires given out were one hundred and eighty (180). Eighteen (18) of them were not returned at the time of collection. The number of ninety-three (93) respondents ticked “Yes”, fifty (50) ticked “No” and ninety (19) ticked Undecided. The number of respondents that ticked “Yes” are higher than those who ticked “No” and “Undecided”. This therefore shows that is not only the rich that use tiles for walls of their buildings.

Conclusion

From the study, it become obvious that the use of tiles for wall finishing is gaining more ground in Warri Metropolitan Area of Delta State when compared to the use of other forms wall finishing. In the questionnaire distributed, questions 1,2,3,4,6,7,8,and 9, show that majority of the respondents are in favour of the use of tiles for wall finishing. However, for question 5 and 10, respondents assumed that only the rich can afford tiles for the finishing of walls of their buildings but the fact remains that the people need to be made to understand that there are different categories of tiles as there are wall paints. It is also important to note that a lot of respondents do not yet understand that tiles help to moderate the atmospheric condition within houses especially in tropics (the hottest of the earth), (Hornby 2001). Hence, huge number of forty- nine respondents could not decide what to say when compared to other numbers of undecided in other questions. Nevertheless, for other questions apart from numbers 5 and 10 are in favour of the use tiles for wall finishing. Whether, it is because it is a new concept that is in vogue in this part of the country one cannot precisely tell.

This paper therefore recommends that government and individuals that have ability to fund ceramic companies should help in this regard so that individuals would be able to satisfy their taste as per the kind of buildings they would like to have. It would also be a means of provision of jobs as such would help to alleviate poverty and raise the standard of living to a great extent in the country as a whole.

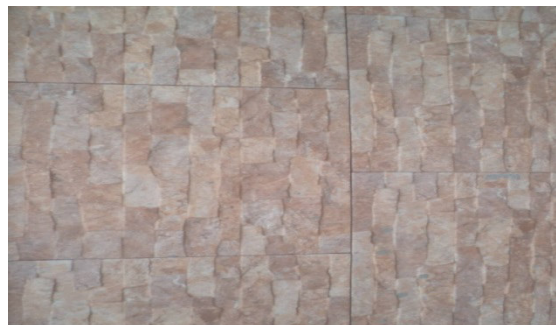
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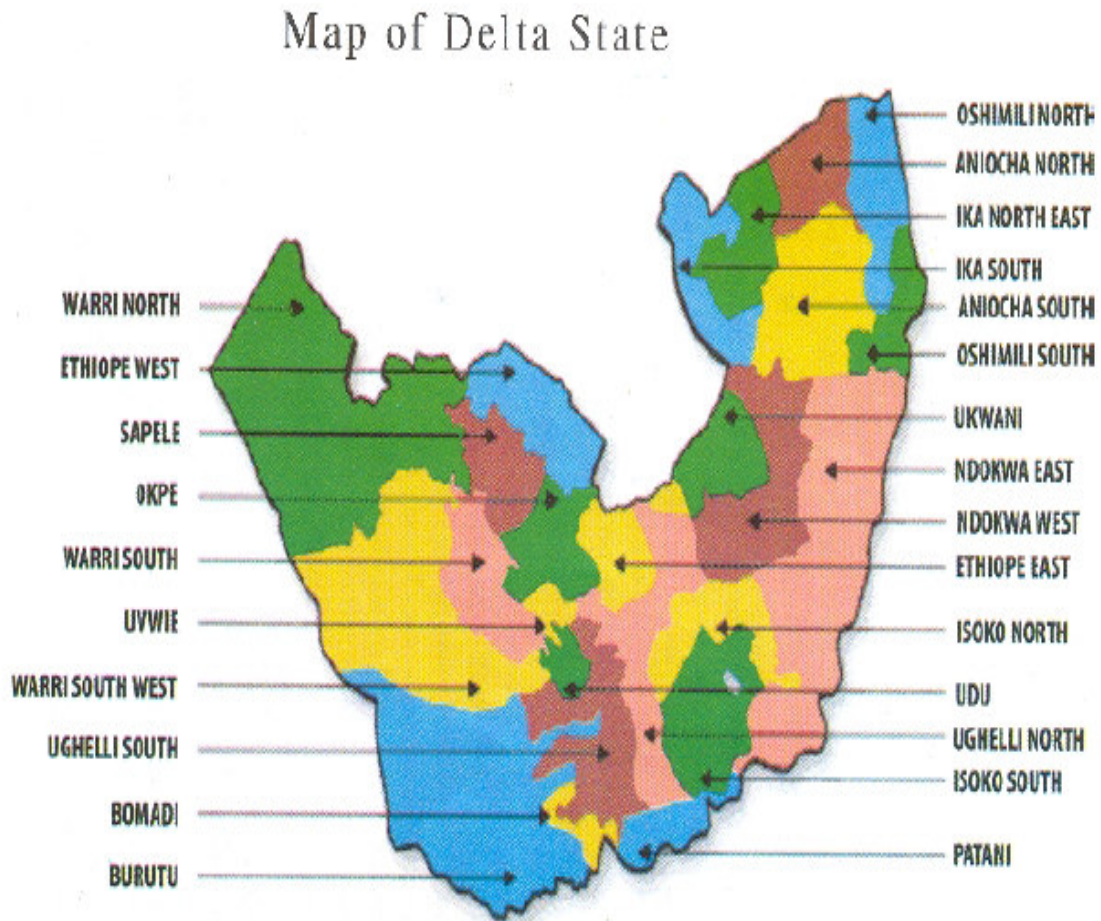
SOME OF THE MODERN WALLS HAVING TILES FINISHING.







A MAP SHOWING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS IN DELTA STATE: Where Warri South and Okpe Local Government Areas can be identified clearly.



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